

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 7 are pending and are rejected. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2 and 7 are rejected as being unpatentable over DE 198 36 132 A1 in view of EP '356, Kuo and Weber and Anzai. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

DE 198 36 132 A1 (DE '132) at least fails to teach (i) a porous ceria anode doped with samarium oxide, (ii) a doped-ceria electrolyte and (iii) a cathode of cobalt iron manganese based material.

The Examiner states that the abstract of DE '132 discloses a cathode that includes elements such as cobalt, iron and manganese. The applicants respectfully disagree. There is no such teaching within the abstract of this German language patent.

The examiner argues that Anzai, in column 5, recognized that a porous anode comprising NiO, samaria and ceria is well known in the SOFC art. However, the reference clearly states that it is essential that the fuel cell is composed mainly of ruthenium, nickel and ceramics. See column 2, lines 23-26. The reference teaches that it is necessary to combine nickel, ruthenium and cerium oxide ceramic to improve the steam reforming activity of ruthenium and the electrode activity of nickel. See column 2, lines 37-43. There is no teaching that an anode material comprising NiO, samaria and ceria would have provided an anode having an improved reforming and catalytic

activity. Accordingly, the reference teaches an electrode of nickel, ruthenium and cerium oxide ceramic. It does not teach a porous ceria anode doped with samarium oxide.

Therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusions

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance based on claims 1, 2 and 7 in view of the amendments thereto and the foregoing comments.

If any impediments remain to prompt allowance of the case, please contact the undersigned at 808-875-0012.

Respectfully submitted,



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